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# MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

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# Triumph of Democracies is near

Mr. NAHAS PASHA

I am sure the Day of Triumph for Democracies is near The Axis forces have been driven from Egypt and pursued into Libya. The danger to our country has been removed. The memory of the anxious hours through which Egypt and her allies have passed will strengthen their friendship, their alliance and their mutual confidence

Mr. NAHAS PASHA, Prime Minister of Egypt, in a speech at Cairo on Saturday (Nov. 14)

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# Running Commentary

**Vichy North Africa: The American Landing—Supply Routes Shortened**

The Washington correspondent of *The Daily Telegraph* cabling to his paper the reactions in America on the landing in Vichy North Africa, says, "'This is it!' was the reaction of most Americans to the thrilling news that, for the first time in this war, American troops have gone into action on a grand scale. Excitement and enthusiasm were intense. Coming on top of British successes in Egypt, this has changed the nation's views of the war almost overnight." The correspondent points out that, in spite of excitement over the fact that a major American expeditionary force was at last in action, most newspapers made it clear that this was a great Allied operation, in which the Americans, the British, and the Fighting French and others were playing their part.

One of the features of the new offensive in French North Africa was the fact that American troops were assigned the task of making the initial landing and that Americans were in charge of the "combined operations." It is stated that American military commentators are giving full reins to speculation and foresee in this victory the complete clearance of Axis strength on the African shores of the Mediterranean. They feel that the African successes would, to some extent, relieve the pressure on the Soviet front and would also have its effect on Far Eastern operations by shortening the line of communications and relieving the strain on shipping.

The U.S. War Shipping Administrator, Vice-Admiral Emory S. Land, referring to this, has stated that the eventual opening of the Mediterranean would greatly shorten the supply routes of

## HIT THEM FOR SIX!

"When we began the Battle of Egypt on October 23, I said together we could hit the Germans and Italians for six right out of North Africa. We have made a very good start, and to-day, November 11, there are no German and Italian soldiers on Egyptian territory except prisoners. In three weeks, we have completely smashed the German and Italian Army and pushed the fleeing remnants out of Egypt, having advanced ourselves nearly 300 miles up to and beyond the frontier."

—General MONTGOMERY, in a personal message to the Eighth Army.

American and other United Nations' shipping. He says, "As soon as the Mediterranean can be used safely, long voyages around the tip of South Africa to Suez, the Persian Gulf and India will be eliminated to a great extent." He points out that the more direct Mediterranean route would save thousands of miles, oil, coal and considerable time for ships now in service. This is as good as adding many ships to the United Nations' shipping pool and will result in more cargoes being carried out in a shorter time to the Near East, Russia, and India by means of the Persian Gulf.

* * * *

**Remarkable Success of Combined Operations : Tribute to Admiral Cunningham**

The importance of shipping and sea power has been well illustrated particularly in the operations in French North Africa. The task of carrying through at a sea distance of over thousand miles from the nearest base one of the greatest "combined operations" the world has ever seen, has been accomplished with remarkable success, because of the strength of Allied sea power. As *The Times* points out, up to the time of actual landings, the operation was a wholly sea affair, and even most of the widespread air reconnaissance, which had to cover hundreds of miles round selected landing places and indeed all over the Western Mediterranean, must have been carried out by ship-borne air forces, until the Moroccan and Algerian air fields became available to the R.A.F. and the American Army Air Forces. *The Times* pays a tribute to the clockwork precision with which the occupying troops in North Africa have been delivered in such quick succession to their several points of disembarkation and their immediate successes at every landing place in establishing their foothold ashore.

The main technical work of bringing troops safely to places required by General Eisenhower's plan was entrusted

*FIGHTING FRENCH IN THE WESTERN DESERT—Some of the gunners of the Fighting French are here seen with their guns. Speed and prompt action is the greatest necessity, so their main consideration is the upkeep and perfect maintenance of their guns.*

to the Royal Navy headed by Admiral Cunningham who, says *The Times*, "is the first and foremost of fighting seamen and a born leader of men afloat."

The purpose of this great American landing was explained by President Roosevelt in a broadcast, to which we referred in our last issue. It was intended to liberate France and destroy German and Italian forces in North Africa. When the Axis threat is completely removed, the sovereignty of France over French territories will be completely restored. This action on the part of the Allies was necessitated by the growing subordination of the Vichy Government to the Axis threats and the development of relations of a more sinister character on the part of one or two important personages of the Vichy regime towards Germany, which, it was felt, would affect adversely Allied position in the Mediterranean theatre of war.

* * * *

**Vichy and the Axis: The Armistice and After—German Infiltration Tactics**

It is of interest to outline some of the general features of the relations between Vichy and the Axis. After the collapse of France in 1940 and the conclusion of the Armistice, it was hoped that the Vichy Government would at least resist Axis attempts at infiltration into the French Empire.

But Axis attitude very soon made it clear that this hope would be falsified. The Nazis began their usual methods and tactics of sapping the internal strength of the French Empire by undermining the morale of, and creating unrest among, the local population. The Armistice Commissions which descended upon North Africa in large numbers did this work only too well.

To what extent the German tactics succeeded will be evident from a statement made by Count De Brinon, Vichy's representative in Paris. On March 27, 1941, he said to an American press correspondent, "If we believe that England has already lost the war and if, as we should do, we consider the interests of our country, we should come to an agreement about collaboration in Africa." This statement stands in glaring contrast to the earlier French attitude of defiance to the Germans in North Africa. Vichy became powerless, as more and more of Axis agents penetrated into the Empire in an insidious manner. Vichy surrendered itself to the inevitable, and this was largely due to the fact that men like Darlan and Laval played a game of treachery to France and intrigued with the Nazis. After the Nazis installed themselves in North Africa by means of

## Enemy Propaganda Nailed to the Counter!

One of the favourite topics of enemy propaganda is to suggest that Britian invariably makes Indian troops do the fighting for her while British soldiers in a battle remain behind the front line. Figures of British and Indian casualties in the Western Desert have disproved this suggestion in the past. During the period November 1941—July 1942, British official casualty figures were as follows :

| | |
|---|---|
| **United Kingdom troops** | **50 per cent** |
| **South African troops** | **25 per cent** |
| **Indian troops** | **20 per cent** |
| **Remainder** | **5 per cent** |

In the present battle the percentage of United Kingdom casualties is 9 per cent above the previous figures, and (in the absence of official figures) it seems safe to assume that the percentage of Indian casualties will be smaller than before.

As an ironic and disgraceful pendant to Axis propaganda comes the German abandonment of their Italian allies in the Desert !

Armistice Commissions, they had Vichy completely under control. No protest against the growing infiltration could be made, lest worse should befall the Vichy regime.

The infiltration of the Axis first began in the economic sphere. The agricultural and raw produce of the French colonies were taken to Germany and the Occupied Europe. The Nazis no doubt paid a high price for the produce, but it must be remembered that the payment was in paper marks and French currency manufactured to order. Money was spent lavishly in North Africa by the Axis Armistice Commissions with a view to giving the impression of Axis solvency on the Continent. The extent of Nazi exploitation of the French Colonies came to light when, last December, General Jacquet, who was in charge of both military and civil supplies in Tunisia, resigned as a protest against the sending of food stocks from Tunisia across the frontier to the Axis troops in Libya.

* * * *

**French North Africa : Laval Men Sell Their Country for Silver**

In the industrial sphere also the Nazis tightened their strangle-hold. The French African industries such as mines, power, motor transport, and production of petroleum and phosphates were controlled by the *Quimum Nord African*, a Nazi concern, and run by the group of French Moroccan industrialists called *Laval Men in North Africa*. They played the Axis game, because they found a market for their goods. Thus did they sell away the national honour of France for a few pieces of silver !

The most important aspect of the Axis infiltration was, of course, the military one. It was carried out with characteristic Axis thoroughness and deceit. At Bizerta, Algiers, Oran, Kenitra and Casablanca, Axis Armistice Commissions were established with the sole object of acquiring a military hold in North Africa. The presence of German troops in French Morocco was revealed for the first time in the House of Commons on March 5, 1941. Since then German military infiltration had been going on continuously. German technical experts came and fortified the French naval bases in Africa such as Casablanca and Mers-el-Kebir, and made new aerodromes in Morocco. There were three or four hundred planes at Casablanca at the time of the Armistice, and they were all taken over by the Germans.

* * * *

**Darlan's Revenge on Hitler and Laval**

Darlan's regime at Vichy resulted in further increasing Axis military strength in North Africa. His reshuffle of civil and military posts was intended to entrust positions of power into the hands of men trusted by the Axis. But Darlan turned inimical to the Axis, when Laval became Hitler's trusted Quisling in France. He was evidently biding his time, and he had his revenge on Hitler and Laval when he co-operated with the Allies in the landing operations they carried out recently. His present position is now the subject-matter of controversy. Marshal Petain has disclaimed him, as also General de Gaulle. President Roosevelt's statement at the press conference on Tuesday, November 17, explains the position so far as the Allies are concerned. The President says that he has accepted General Eisenhower's political arrangement with Darlan made for the time being in Northern and Western Africa and that he thoroughly understands and approves the general feeling that, in view of the history of the past two years, no permanent arrangement should be made with Darlan. "But present temporary arrangements in North and West Africa," he adds "is only a temporary expedient justified solely by the stress of battle."

This temporary expedient has served to rescue French North Africa from the clutches of the Axis and remove their threat to the United Nations and to France herself.

## Moving Forward

"We have got great armies, powerful weapons and a strong air force and navy, and we are moving forward and success is attending our arms."

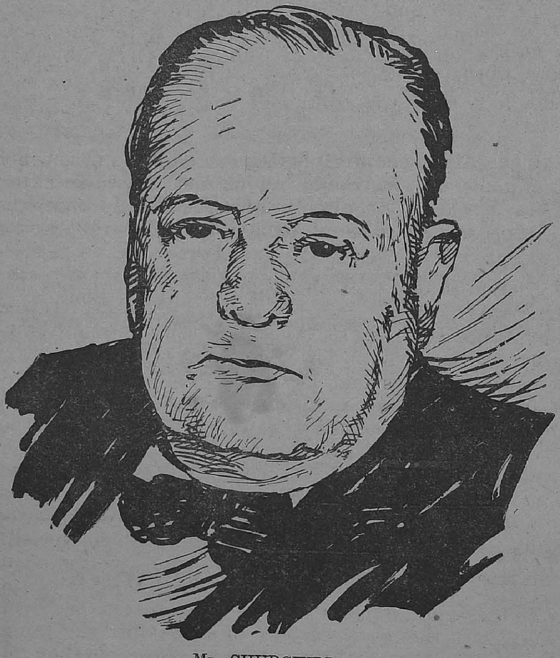
—Mr. CHURCHILL, at Harrow School, on Wednesday (November 18).

# The Beginning of

Addressing the students of his old school at Harrow on Wednesday (November 18), Mr. Churchill said that Britain was making her way through the dark valley and gradually coming out, although there were many dangers and deceptions still besetting her. Nevertheless, he assured them that Britain was marching forward stronger every month, with more knowledge, confidence and power. "The day will surely come," he added, "when we shall reach that broader and brighter light which, when once it has shone, will never be quenched."

As usual, Mr. Churchill's speech shows great confidence in the ultimate victory of the United Nations. That this confidence is abundantly justified has been borne out by recent Allied successes in different theatres of war. We referred to the rout of Rommel in Egypt in our last issue. The greatness of this defeat is testified to by Rommel himself. In an interview in Berlin to the German Press six weeks ago (October 3), he said :

"*The gateway of Egypt is in our grasp—Our intention is to act.*"



MR. CHURCHILL

The German General no doubt acted, but not in the way he intended. He evidently thought that his forces were strong enough to take the offensive, and certainly strong enough to defend themselves. And this was no doubt apparently correct, for Rommel's forces were numerically superior, being twelve divisions to ten. But Rommel was defeated in the Battle of Egypt. He was defeated by better armament, better men, better generalship, and by better planning. It was, in fact, better planning that made the victory possible by bringing all the necessary materials 12,000 miles by sea and made Rommel's retreat assume the non-stop character it did. The troops of the Eighth Army are still pursuing the enemy on a wide front, and at the time of writing, they are closing in on Benghazi.

General Alexander, the Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Forces in the Middle East, referring to the campaign at a press conference in Cairo on Wednesday said :

"*If any action deserves the description of* BLITZKRIEG, *it is the Eighth Army's feat in getting from El Alamein to Tobruk in a week, and in only half the time the enemy took to come in the other direction.*"

The enemy has lost heavily in this engagement. There were about 500 Axis tanks in the battle area, of which only 15 escaped! The total losses in men are computed at 75,000 men, as against the Allied losses of less than 14,000. Of these, 58 per cent are from Britain, and the remaining 42 are divided between the Dominions, India, the Fighting-French, Greeks, Czechoslovakians and other Allied nations. These figures show that the Battle of Egypt was very largely fought by the British supported by various other elements in the Eighth Army.

# the Final Round

The reason why the enemy so miserably failed in this important encounter, which he ought to have expected, was, in the words of General Alexander, that he was "surprised by the actual time and place of its delivery, and also by the terrific weight of our artillery and air force and by the support and fighting of our infantry."

## Another Battle of Libya?

What is likely to be the next development? General Alexander expects that the enemy will make a temporary stand at El Agheila, where he has strong prepared defensive positions, and keep up the rearguard action in an effort to hold the Allied armies back, as long as there is a possibility of his getting reinforcements by air and sea. The Commander-in-Chief says, "There may be further heavy fighting in North Africa." In other words, the decisive victory in the Battle of Egypt does not mean that another Battle of Libya will not be fought out.

The Anglo-American landings in North Africa which are dealt with in some detail under "Running Commentary", form another feature of the United Nations' grand strategy, which is fraught with immense possibilities. The taking of Rommel in the rear, the control of the Mediterranean, a direct threat to Italy, and the transformation of the situation in Vichy France and French North Africa—all these are factors the effective working out of which will depend on time. Referring to the North African operations in his speech in the House of Commons on Wednesday, Sir Stafford Cripps said that there could be no better demonstration of the manner in which unification has already been met than the combined Anglo-American operations.

Sir Stafford has also referred to the Allied counter-offensive in New Guinea, which is still progressing satisfactorily. Thanks to Australian vigour and American enterprise, the tide in New Guinea has turned. So also in the Solomons. Here the Americans are more than holding their own, but the Japanese are still strong and a long and hard struggle lies ahead of our Allies.

As regards Russia, Sir Stafford points out that the valour of the Russians has once again resulted in the failure of Hitler to gain his avowed objective. It was on October 3 that Hitler promised to take Stalingrad. And he is still offering excuses as to why he didn't keep his promise. He says that a few strong points do not warrant risking a second Verdun, but he himself admits that he wanted to take Stalingrad, not because of its name, but because of its importance. And so it *was* a second Verdun, and the flower of the German army was broken on it in vain.

## Red Army's Winter Offensive

Now the Red Army seems to be preparing for a great winter offensive against the Nazis. According to the Vichy Radio, seven big Russian armies are now being massed along the front from Leningrad to Stalingrad, suggesting an imminent winter push. In a despatch from Moscow, *Reuter's* Special Correspondent says that the tide of the Nazi advance into Russia has reached its highest point and, in some places, has even begun to recede. He points out that, with the disappearance of shock forces of tanks and planes from Stalingrad and the onset of winter there is now no prospect that the Nazis will have any important new success against the city. Summer, it is stated, is Germany's time, and winter, Russia's. The fighting both at Nalchik and Tuapse seem to strengthen the force of this saying.

Thus, it may be said that the war situation as a whole has been transformed. Mr. Churchill told the Harrow boys two years ago that "the days were very dark", and that they could not see then by what means they could get out of their troubles, but they were determined to find their way out. He told them day before yesterday that Britain was gradually coming out of the dark valley.

The Allies, said Dr. Benes, President of Czechoslovakia, at an International Students' Rally in London on Monday (November 16), were "now at the beginning of the final round with the Axis Powers." He has said in the language of the ring what Mr. Churchill told the Harrow boys. It is a good beginning for the final round, and all the facts of the situation point to one ultimate conclusion—the elimination of the Nazi heavy-weight by a count of ten.

# " Toughest General in the British Army"

BY

SIDNEY HORNIBLOW

THEY reckon he is the toughest General in the British Army—54-year-old Bernard Law Montgomery who recently took over command of the Eighth Army in Egypt.

He is a ruthless disciplinarian, but there is not a man under his command who does not respect and admire him.

When he was General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, South-Eastern Command of Britain, he had every single officer and clerk under 40 at his headquarters out at 7 o'clock every morning for physical jerks. And everybody from private to Brigadier had to run six miles each week over a stiff cross-country course. General Montgomery himself ran the course, so no one could complain on that score.

Ruthless himself, this new Eighth Army Commander, has no illusions about the utter ruthlessness of the enemy. That is why he has always planned the training of the men under him along the severest possible lines. Never have soldiers on manœuvres in the British Army been set such grim and brilliantly-planned endurance tests as those devised by Montgomery. Many a man has said that he would rather be on active service than training under the General.

## A MAN AMONG MEN

Where Montgomery gets the pull is that he is a man among men. The less time he has to spend at his desk and the more he can get out among his troops, the better he likes it. He so organized his office work at South-Eastern Command headquarters that he got it all done between six and seven in the morning. All day he was out in the field; testing defences, talking to his troops and also to the Home Guard in the area. On a wet night he would be just as happy sleeping under a hedge as he would in his own bed.

He makes it a rule to be asleep by nine o'clock, or as soon after as possible, and he is up before most men in the morning.

A great believer in Youth, he never smokes and rarely drinks alcohol. He reckons a soldier is at his fighting best between 23 and 30. A company commander should not be more than 35, whilst a Brigadier is at his best at 40. And the finest soldier, so long as he has the brains as well, is the agile, tough, 100 per cent fit man, in Montgomery's view.

GENERAL MONTGOMERY

The fact is, Montgomery expects a lot of his men—health, intelligence, courage, ingenuity and a rigid self-discipline. He is the son of a bishop, grandson of a Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab. Keenly religious, severe but sympathetic, alert, alive, exacting, and always with a boundless enthusiasm and tireless energy. At 54 he is as fit and full of life as when he joined the Royal Warwickshire Regiment as a Second-Lieutenant 34 years ago. That was when he left Sandhurst.

## GREAT WAR RECORD

He was among the first men to land in France in August **1914,** and was no sooner there than he was promoted to the rank of temporary captain. For three years he saw service on the Western Front. He was twice wounded, six times mentioned in despatches, and won the Distinguished Service Order and the French Croix de Guerre.

For several months towards the close of the war he was temporary Lieutenant-Colonel and General Staff Officer, First Grade. He was a Staff Officer on the Rhine, and in Ireland, England and India. He passed through the Staff College, and was later an instructor at both Camberley and Quetta.

In August 1937, Montgomery was given a brigade in the Southern Command, Britain, with the rank of Brigadier. In the spring of 1938 he was promoted Major-General and when this present war started he took the 3rd Division to France and led them throughout the campaign there. After the return from Dunkirk he commanded an Army Corps in Britain and later took over the South-Eastern Command.

Now he is in charge of the Eighth Army in the Desert. The short, tough man with the bronzed open-air look about him has the chance to put into practice the tactics he planned with such vigour and precision among his men at home in England.

# Indian Troops in Mersa Matruh

AN Indian Army Observer was the first pressman to enter Mersa Matruh after the enemy covering party, holding the old British tank ditch, dispersed before our armour attack.

A convoy of winter clothing abandoned by the enemy on the roadside was discovered by Indian troops. Having equipped themselves thoroughly, the troops tossed gifts of underpants and undershirts to each passing vehicle.

Sniping was still progressing but the welcoming party at the corner of the main thoroughfare comprised fourteen Gurkhas, two Punjabis and two ambulance men.

Captured in Tobruk and brought to Mersa to work in the docks, were also two South Africans. They in turn had taken five prisoners, including a German officer.

# Tribute to the British Soldier

A special correspondent of the Turkish newspaper, *Yenisabah* and the *La Turguie* who has just visited Egypt writes on British soldiers. He says : " Of the many remarkable things I have seen in Egypt perhaps the most impressive is the individual fighting character of the British soldier. The British are well known for their gift for improvisation and this peculiar racial characteristic is exploited throughout their military training.

" The 'tommy' of to-day is a highly intelligent man who retains his civilian initiative and has through application and hard work transformed military training.

" Just as his father in the last war showed himself generations ahead of soldiers who fought in the South African war, so the young soldier of to-day is far better than his father. British officers pay spontaneous tribute to the intelligence of the men they command.

" The British soldier of to-day is like a member of a theatrical repertory company, trained to play any part. For the corner stone of British military training is that every private should think for himself."

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# Britain: Ever the Centre of Action

WE are going forward as the conference of the Prime Minister with miners brings home to us through a test of national energy which demands the utmost of the British people. From the thundering battle line in Egypt comes the news of far ranging air attack and the army's advance against desperate resistance while every other front—Russia's 2,000 miles, the air over Germany, the seaways round the world and the Far East—must have its share of our manufacturing power and our fighting men.

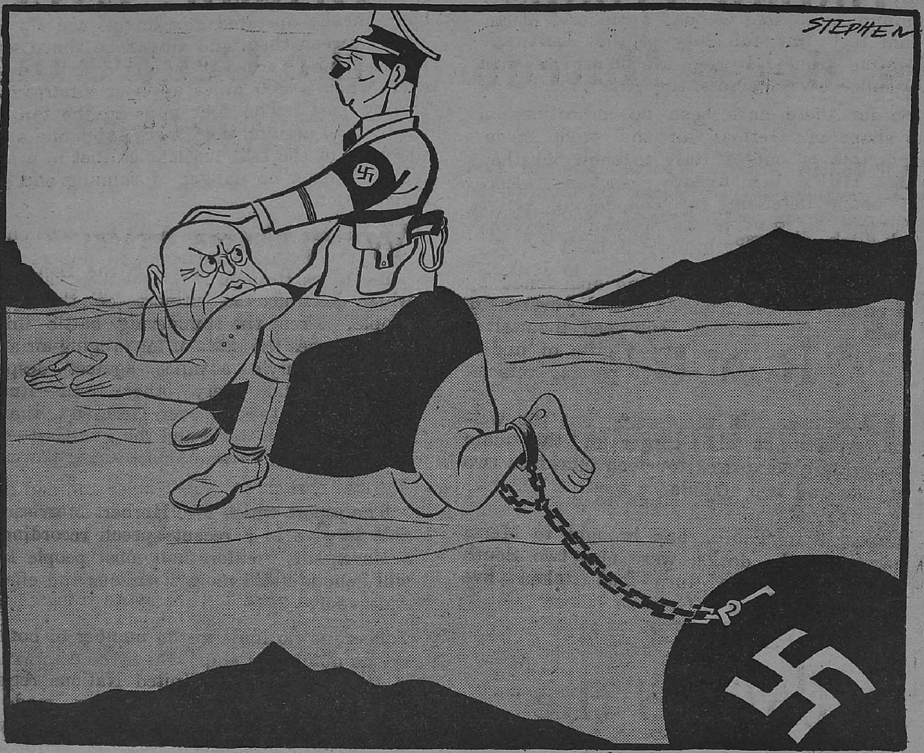
The report which Mr. Herbert Morrison was able to give in a recent speech recording our achievement, greater than most people knew, will generate still more strenuous and effectual endeavour.

There is no limit to the number of bombers or the number of ships which the commanders of the forces of the United Nations require; but the contribution now being made by British industry justifies pride. Not only in ship-building but every department of war production the output per head of our workers is greater than any other country in the world has yet attained.

The Air Minister spoke the other day wanting many more bombers. During September, British aircraft factories completed six tons of planes for every five in the month of August and have not yet worked up to the peak of planned capacity. The reason why the attack on Germany with 1,000 bombers is still as, Sir Archibald Sinclair put it, " an exceptional feat of organization " is that 80 per cent of our war production is sent overseas.

Every man for whom shipping can be found has also, Mr. Morrison tells us, gone to distant fronts. This island fortress of freedom which Hitler had to capture if he was to win the war, which for long held out alone against all the Axis could bring against it, is developing, while its own armed strength has become the central arsenal of a world alliance, a centre of worldwide distribution of arms, and still remains the centre of action against the triple enemy.

Allied capacity to develop air and sea strength into overwhelming co-operation is an assurance of victory. In this the nature of things has given our island the central part and we shall " know no dread nor ease " as we work on to the end.—*The Daily Telegraph.*




# To Defend or Abandon Italy

## Choice Before German High Command

DURING the next few days Hitler and the German High Command and Mussolini and the Italian High Command will be forced to make political and strategic decisions of life or death importance for their two countries, writes the diplomatic correspondent of the *News Chronicle*.

Hitler and the German High Command will have to decide whether to defend Italy or abandon Italy to her fate and retire to Brenner. For Mussolini and the Italian High Command the choice is even more invidious: the choice is between continuing to fight with an ally who may desert them at any moment of crisis, or of making peace with the Allies and thereby exposing Italy to the fury of Hitler's vengeance.

For Italy under Mussolini or any other Government the choice cannot be peace or war. There can be no peace for Italy now. She must fight on—either with Germany or against Germany.

Without German help, Italy would be quite unable to withstand the mass of military, naval and air force which it will be possible for the Allies to concentrate against her once they have established complete control over the coast lines of North Africa and sea and air supremacy in the Mediterranean.

On the other hand, should Mussolini or even a new non-Fascist Government of Italy attempt to seek an armistice or peace with the Allies, Hitler could wreak terrible vengeance on his defaulting vassal. Quite apart from Hitler's vengeful rage, it would be sheer military necessity for the German High Command, if Italy attempts to make peace, to destroy everything in Italy which could ever be of military value to the Allies. Before they abandon Italy or any other occupied country the Germans can be trusted to scorch its earth even more ruthlessly and effectively than the Russians scorched their own.

For Italy, peace with the Allies would only mean exchanging bombs of the Royal Air

Force for the bombs of the Luftwaffe. In Italy, great industrial cities and centres of communication like Genoa, Turin and Milan would feel the full fury of the Luftwaffe operating from Bavarian air fields less than 300 miles away, across the Alps.

So far there have been no indications in the shape of German air and troop movements into or out of Italy to show whether or not Hitler has already reached a decision about defending or abandoning Italy. Observers in London are watching developments in Italy with intense interest for the first signs which may give a clue to Hitler's decision.

# R.A.F.'s Four-Engined Bomber

## No Part of Germany Safe from the Lancaster

BY

PETER MASEFIELD

FOUR outstanding features contribute to make the new Avro-Lancaster four-motor heavy bomber the most formidable machine of its type in the world to-day.

The first of these is speed. The Lancaster can achieve a maximum speed little short of 300 m.p.h. even with full load. As a result a long chase must result if Axis fighters have to climb up and attempt to catch the Lancaster with little warning. The fighter may even run out of fuel before it can intercept. This high speed of the Lancaster has made it specially suitable for the long daylight raids in which it has won so much fame.

### HUGE BOMB LOAD

The second feature is the enormously heavy bomb load. A maximum load of 15,800 lb. of bombs can be carried in the huge bomb compartment, 33 feet long. There is stowage of the huge yellow 4,000 pounders packed in with an assortment of 500 pounders and incendiaries to make up the weight. Or, alternatively, half a dozen 2,000 pounders with more 500 lb. bombs can be accommodated.

This enormous maximum load can be carried for more than a thousand miles whereas with a load reduced to several tons the range goes up towards the 3,000 miles mark. No part of Germany is safe from the great striking power of the Lancaster.

The third feature is the powerful defensive armoury which it carries into battle. Four hydraulically operated gun turrets contain ten guns between them and all can be aimed with precision and turned at a touch of the hand even when a 300 miles an hour airstream is roaring past. The four guns in the tail are fed by long ammunition tracks extending along the sides of the rear fuselage so that in a long flight there is no danger of running short of ammunition.

### CAN SMASH FIGHTER ATTACKS

There are no blind spots on the Lancaster, except those inevitable from the small area blanketed by the fins and rudders. But that area is too small to shield an attacking fighter.

On one raid more than a dozen Lancasters set off from a station. All returned a few hours later, and when the bag was counted up they were found to have shot down four German fighters between them without loss.

Several bore many bullet holes and had been hit by cannon shells. But the Lancaster will stand an enormous amount of punishment. All the vital parts are armoured—in fact in all something like half a ton of armour plate is carried, some of it built in as an integral part of the structure.

The Lancaster is almost invulnerable to machine-gun fire and cannon shells have to hit a lucky part to bring it down.

There is a fourth strong point—production. Very careful planning before production began has made the Lancaster the easiest heavy bomber to build which is yet flying. The man-hours—and the "woman-hours," for 40 per cent of the workers on Lancaster production are girls—have been cut down to an extraordinary extent and far below the smallest figure believed possible not very long ago. Just how far this saving in production time has been carried, the Axis would dearly love to know. So it cannot be told.

### WIDELY SPREAD MANUFACTURE

In one way production of the Lancaster suffers in comparison with what can be done in the United States. And that is because of the need for dispersal. In America vast single plants can be set up to turn out aircraft from one central point. In Great Britain that cannot be done because of the danger of bombing. A vast assembly shop, for instance, would be an ideal target.

So Lancaster production is very widely spread so that at no point could heavy, accurate bombing seriously block production. Yet so well organized is the routine that the completely assembled components each with all its equipment installed, come together at the various major assembly points—and in an astonishingly short time fly away as complete machines.

The Royal Air Force is delighted with the Lancaster. It is described by experienced pilots as the best aeroplane they have ever

flown—it is delightfully light on the controls and even with two motors out of action on one side it still performs well.

**HAS EVERYTHING**

There is an instance in which a Lancaster, seriously hit by flak, struck the water and bounced three times before pulling clear and flying home across the North Sea with only two motors working, both on the same side.

By careful and inspired design, by fine workmanship and by that streak of luck which still enters aerodynamic science, Mr. Roy Chadwick, Avro's Chief Designer, has turned out a really exceptional machine—an aeroplane which will go down to history. The Lancaster has got everything and it packs a terrific punch. In company with the other great four-motor bombers of the United Nations it is starting to set about that task of "scourging Germany" which Air Marshal Sir Arthur Harris has promised to the Nazis.

# Damage to German Cities by R.A.F. Raids

BY

V. POMERANTSEV

I have talked with many German soldiers and officers taken prisoner in recent battles. Some of these men had been transferred to the Russian front from occupied France. Others had arrived recently from the German rear. Still others had been on the Russian front for many months. These conversations shed some light on what is now taking place in the German rear and in the Nazi-occupied countries.

The first thing mentioned by one and all is the tremendous damage to German cities caused by British air raids. One of the prisoners I talked to happened to have with him a letter from his wife who had taken a trip to her relatives in Cologne after the bombings and described her impressions in the following words:

"I cannot tell you how awful it is. The ruins are terrific. All I can say is that the photographs you sent me of the Russian cities demolished by our aircraft are nothing to what I have seen here. There is no more Cologne, my dear, and that is all."

**WIPED OFF THE MAP**

"Not long ago I received a letter from my relatives in the village of Bieck, Rhine region," Hubert Wiltz, corporal of the 458th Infantry Regiment, 258th Infantry Division, told me. "They say that Cologne and Dusseldorf have been practically wiped off the map. Father is very worried about what will happen next."

Max Dietmann, corporal of a machine-gun battalion of the 258th division, said that he had been receiving letters regularly from his mother in Jazenetz, near Stettin, and from a girl he knew in another town. "Both," he said, "of late had mentioned the British bombings.

"Most of the letters the other men received from home spoke of the same thing. Some are afraid to write about such matters, so they send newspaper clippings, merely adding that actually the result of the bombings was far worse. I know from the letters the men in my unit have been getting that Cologne, Bremen, Flensburg, Kiel, Wilhelmshaven and Hamburg have been seriously damaged."

**GREAT DEAL OF DESTRUCTION**

I heard similar statements from many other prisoners. But what do they themselves think about the British bombings?

"There is a great deal of destruction and those directly involved suffer keenly, of course. But those who don't are not inclined to over-estimate the importance of the bombings," said Private Gronauer, 342nd division, who arrived recently from Germany.

"They console themselves with the argument that these raids do not affect the army. Far more people would have to suffer from the bombings before they could affect the war and before the feelings of the people would be transmitted to the army."

**FROM FRYING PAN**

Soldiers of the 342nd division who had been in France and then in Serbia fighting the guerillas had some interesting statements to make.

"We were never able to cope with the Serbian guerillas and we never shall," they said. "We were glad to get out of Serbia, where we were surrounded by hatred and death. But coming to Russia was like falling out of the frying pan into the fire."—*Moscow News*.

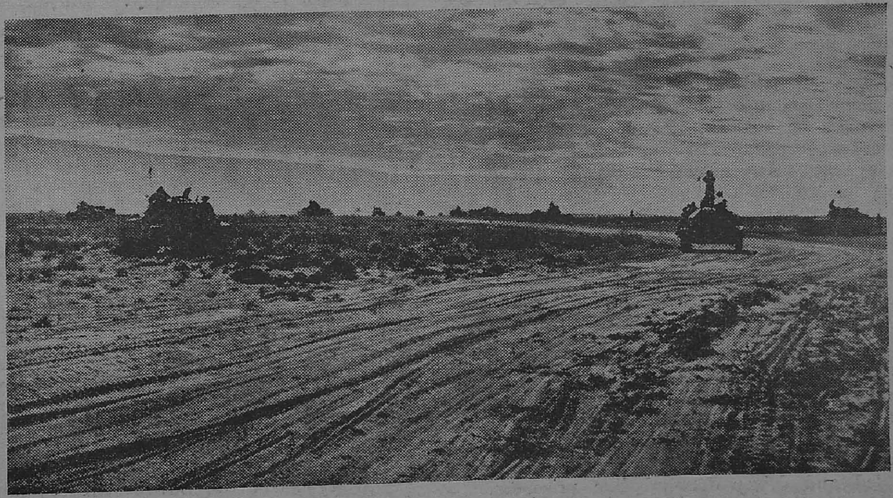
## VERY GROGGY

"We have decisively won the first round and the enemy is very groggy, but the battle will not be ours until he is lying senseless."

—General ALEXANDER, at a Press Conference in Cairo, on Wednesday (November 18).

# Latest Pictures of the Western Desert Campaign.

*On the evening of October 23, hundreds of 25 pounder and other British guns opened up the greatest artillery barrage the Western Desert has ever seen. Tons of thousands o shells hurled across into enemy positions for hours on end. Photo shows : Troops waiting to go into action when the barrage is lifted.*



*This battle is different from the previous ones in the desert. Usually tanks lead the attack but this time the tanks waited until artillery and infantry had cleared gaps in the minefields. Here are some of them waiting in the early morning behind our forward positions.*

# A Russian in Berlin

THE Soviet authorities have received a letter from a former Nazi-appointed superintendent of the Flaginsky rural district of the occupied Pitebsk region in Byelorussia, named Kozlov, who has now fled from the Germans and joined a guerilla detachment.

Kozlov is an ex-kulak (village profiteer) who was sentenced to a term of imprisonment by a Soviet court for setting fire to grain. Afterwards he worked on a collective farm. When the district was occupied by the Germans they appointed Kozlov, first as burgomaster, and then as superintendent of the rural district.

For propaganda purposes the German authorities organized excursions to Germany for so-called peasant "representatives," i.e., local traitors who sold themselves to the Germans. As a former kulak who had served a term of imprisonment, Kozlov seemed to the Germans a suitable person, and he was included in one of the excursions. Kozlov writes:

## 'ESCORTED' TOUR

"I went to Germany on a so-called excursion of representatives of the peasantry from the Mogiliev, Vitebsk and Smolensk regions. Twenty-seven of us, escorted by German policemen, were assembled in Minsk.

"On the way I examined my fellow-travellers—all were former kulaks, White Guards, horse-thieves, and similar wastrels. From Minsk to Berlin we were escorted by 30 SS guards who never left us for a moment. When the train stopped we were not allowed to leave the carriage. All the way to Germany we were not allowed to speak to strangers. The correspondent of the Vitebsk Fascist paper, who was in the pay of the Nazis, was spokesman for the entire delegation.

"In Berlin we were escorted by Gestapo agents in plain clothes. Each 'delegate' had one agent attached to him. We spent three weeks in Germany. During this period we visited a large factory turning out uniforms. We were forbidden to linger in the workshops or talk to the workers, and were led and driven forward like prisoners.

## HAGGARD AND EXHAUSTED

"However, the scenes we saw with our own eyes was more convincing than any words. Most of the workers in this factory were women. They worked in filthy, damp, underground departments. Their clothing was very old and worn. They were all haggard and exhausted, with wrinkled faces.

"Most of the people could hardly stand and were exhausted and no longer able to work. We managed to learn that nearly all the women in this factory had been brought by force from the occupied countries.

"Among the women working in the factory were many who had been torn from their families, their villages and towns—Ukrainian, Russian and Byelorussian women.

"In the factory we saw SS men armed to the teeth. We did not visit a single worker's home. We visited a Berlin theatre in the company of the Gestapo agents. The audience consisted of SS men, Nazi officials and Gestapo agents. We saw no ordinary people from the factories and workshops.

"During our stay in Berlin a meeting was held of the Fascist gasworks which the Nazis call the Reichstag. Before the opening thousands of armed SS men appeared in the streets driving the people to a 'demonstration'.

## WEARINESS REIGNS

"Weariness reigns in Berlin. Many people roam the streets very shabbily dressed. Clogs are very frequently to be seen. It is hardly possible to buy anything in any of the shops. They are empty. Minister Rosenberg tried to throw dust in our eyes by giving each of us a set of underwear—made by our own Byalostok weavers . . .

"In the Berlin suburbs we were shown the estates of Hitler, Goering and Ribbentrop. Working on these estates were people who had been brought there by force from the occupied Soviet districts as well as from the vassal countries. Those people lived worse than cattle. We saw hundreds of people and they were all like skeletons dried up through hunger and hard work.

"The life of the people forcibly torn away from their families and country is terrible. This has convinced me finally that such is the fate of all the people whom the Germans carry away from the captured districts.

"When we returned home the Nazis gathered the peasants together in Vitebsk, drew up the text of a speech which I was to make, and compelled me to address them. They wrote all kinds of lies about what I was supposed to have seen in Germany. Against my will I was compelled to tell out-and-out lies."—*Soviet War News.*

# The Balkans in Ferment

## Nazis Harassed by Guerillas

BY

LEONARD KIRSCHEN

IF one wants to know something about Hitler's new order in Europe there is nothing like having a good look round the Balkans in order to see what has been achieved there and find out how things are in general in this Nazi paradise. It looks as if the Germans really do not know what to do with the Balkans after one and a half year's virtual possession or control. One finds out about this German uncertainty from time to time just about when the Germans pull out of their dusty files the various alternatives they have mapped out for the reorganization of this part of the much tried European continent.

### NAZI MACHINATIONS

There have been a variety of plans and drafts of plans: for a Confederation of south-eastern Europe—aped on the idea of a Balkan Federation which had been the idea of Alexander I of Yougoslavia and Kemal Ataturk—, or a greater Macedonia copied from the wild cat dreams of Vanciu Mihailoff the famous Macedonian terrorist, for a Danubian confederation after the model proposed to suit the old Habsburg monarchy, and many other plans and planlets. Now and then the Germans dust the files, chose a plan and relapse into silence after much sounding, whispering and suggesting.

Every time this happens it shows that the Nazis are having a particularly difficult time organizing and reorganizing the Balkans. This territory has proved a hard nut to crack for the Teutonic nut cracker, as it had proved for the Ottoman Empire to be one of the costliest provinces to subdue and administer. One cannot help drawing a parallel between the blowing-up of railway lines and trains carrying goods plundered from these countries with the attacks of the kind carried out by one time outlaws against the heavily laden coaches and carts of the Ottoman tax-collectors carrying the tribute and taxes to the Sublime Porte.

Yes, times have changed but not the methods and means of eighty million people living in some of the most fertile or most barren regions of Europe. They are simple folk, hard working and poor, who have not had time to meddle with politics and who have been betrayed by their politicians. But it is the simple people that react against oppressors, not the politicians who have swollen the ranks of the local Quislings. The men who resist German domination are peasants and workers under the guidance of regular army officers who lead them.

### PLIGHT OF GREECE

But before saying something about this stout resistance it is necessary to say something about Greece. This brave country which has proved to be the military surprise of modern age, which has fought so gallantly against the Italians before being overpowered by sheer mechanical superiority is going through what will be called the blackest period of its history. The present war seems to have chosen Greece as an everlasting memorial to Nazi bestiality for all future generations of mankind. Disarmed and helpless, brutalized by an occupation army of ten Italian and four German divisions, Greece is writhing in the agonies of total hunger worse thousand times than the experience with total war.

The Nazi brutes are robbing Greece of her nickel, we can understand that. But after that fearful last winter the Greeks had experienced when they had eaten up the seeds of their next harvest, the Germans are now taking away the meagre harvest Greece and her islands had managed to produce. They are doing this encouraged by the fact that monthly 15,000 tons of wheat are sent in specially chartered relief ships from Canada through the International Red Cross organization. Reports have even come through that even the small quantities which are distributed individually by this organization from these insufficient cargoes are being requisitioned by the Germans who sneak round corners and listen for the footsteps of the relief worker to die away.

Relief workers who have recently returned from Greece say that the whole generation of children to the age of puberty will never live to reach the twentieth year. This generation is the crowning piece to the Nazi memorial of bestiality: children with twisted legs, distended stomachs, thousands of helpless little bodies dying with fever, dysentery, typhus and consumption. Such is the agony of these tens of thousands of Greek children that their mothers prefer to kill their babies rather than see them suffer the prolonged torture of slow famine. The position is worse on the Greek islands and in the towns, for on the land one could find herbs and milk stray goat.

Autumn would have brought a certain amount of relief. The starved population of Greece had expected the olive harvest and fruit and vegetable harvests with a certain impatience. Here again they were disappointed: the olives have been taken away from them and transported to Germany which is extremely short of oils and fat, the fruit and fresh vegetables are carried daily in special goods-planes to Rommel's Africa Corps. Greece has been turned into a sort of vitamine base for the Germans. It is really a miracle if the

desperate miners and workers and peasants of Greece revolt only to be mown down by the machine gun squads of the living black pest? Such is the Greek version of the Nazi new order, the modern version of ancient Greek tragedies.

**SLAUGHTER OF SERBS**

Further to the west: the same tale of rape, murder and plundering. Here gallant General Mihailovitch with a small army composed of regular and irregular troops has withstood the Nazi oppressor for twenty months. He fights in and occupies a territory half as big as Bosnia and his spirit and that of his men is undaunted. Recently the Germans sent a woman to a concentration camp. This is what she did. When her son was twenty years old she called him and told him: "The beasts have killed your father in this war and your father's father in the last. You have my blessing, go into the forests and avenge their death." He went and now he will have to look for the traitor who gave his mother away. For forty years Yougoslavia had forgotten the law of blood, now they have remembered it. They derail trains and kill Germans wherever they meet them, and for every German one hundred Serbs are massacred and for every Serb ten Germans. And so the fight goes on undiminished in intensity, dying down here, flaring up there. The story of the Chetniks is known to all but the story of the partisans is just being told.

Partisans are those who do not belong to General Mihailovitch's army. They are mainly recruited from the discontented Croats who do not want to see themselves identified after this war with the Ustachi's. The Nazis and the Croat fascist guard the Ustachi's have killed over 400,000 Serbs among them according to Yougoslav reports. This may be exaggerated but they have massacred tens of thousands between them.

The Croats have lately openly shown their disappointment in the Poglavnik—which is Croat equivalent for Fuehrer—over the Dalmatia which Pavelitch has given Italy. Dalmatia is the pearl of Croatia—that is what Croats used to call this province—and ever since his followers have grown fewer and fewer and sabotage has increased. Hitler gave Pavelitch a good shaking down when the latter visited him and as a result decrepit Marshal Kwaternik was sacked from the supreme command of the Croat army—or such as there is. Now we learn that the Chief of Staff General Axa has been replaced by General Papitch who will probably be as helpless against the rising wave of resistance as his predecesor had been.

The partisans resist and fight the Germans and kill them wherever they have an opportunity. They even possess a secret radio station which transmits bulletins three times a day in Serbian and Croat language: it is called the Free Yougoslav broadcasting station.

The Albanians are under the Italians who have found out that it is wiser to leave the sturdy mountain population of this rugged country who are mostly Moslems alone. They occupy Tirana and the harbour Durazzo and during the night it is not wise to travel on the road linking the two.

**A WIDENING GULF**

This is the story of the officially occupied Balkans. And now comes Rumania the potential ally. Whilst hundreds of thousands of Rumanians are leaving their bones in Russia, the leaders at home are intriguing against each other. Scores of small scale palace revolutions fizzle out like blobs of fat on an overheated stove. Their food is "traded" to Germany for goods which they will get after Hitler has managed to reorganize occupied Russia. Their sons are killed in the so-called crusade against the Red terror whilst under their very noses three and a half million Rumanians are ill-treated by their allies, the Magyars, on a territory which is Rumanian and which they are not allowed to fight for. Feelings between Rumanians and Hungarians are running high—I have mentioned this in one of my previous dispatches and before the armistice is signed, the Rumanians will certainly have a crack at the Hungarians and all the pent-up feelings will be let lose.


## Making the News Live!

News as it actually happens on the war fronts will be brought to the microphone for the first time in an All-India Radio programme on Sunday, November 22.

Journalists and broadcasting experts have collaborated to make the news live. All the resources of a modern studio will combine to make the team's first "real news" radio show a most dramatic presentation.

Dramatised episodes of war from all over the world will be brought to the studio with sound effects. The East and Middle East will have special attention.

Some of the men whose exploits are described may themselves come to the microphone.

## BULGARIANS' ILL-TREATMENT OF TURKS

In the middle of this turmoil reigns Boris of Bulgaria, the profiteer of this war. Bulgaria which is profoundly pro-Russian did not see the collaboration with Germany with good eyes. This co-operation, however, carried an attraction which turned the scales in favour of such a new political orientation. It is certain that the Bulgarians had long covoted an outlet to the Mediterranean but the prospect of building a rearguard to a German army occupying Turkey made them lick their lips. When Hitler adopted the alternative to bypass Turkey —oh! these alternatives—the bottom fell out of Bulgaria's pro-Axis policy. They are now showing their disappointment in their ill-treatment of the Turkish minority in Bulgaria. These Turks go for days without their meagre daily bread ration although they have ration-card and are refused all employment by Bulgarians. These and other points are mentioned by the Istanbul newspaper *Yeni Sabah*, which says that thousands are starving. The newspaper even alleges that hundreds who went to Bulgarian doctors to be treated were injected with so-called tonics and died afterwards.

Boris was successful in double-crossing the British Minister in Sofia, M. Randall, but he is not quite as successful in double-crossing Hitler. But among all the Balkan crooks, crowned or uncrowned, he is so far the luckiest because the Germans are so busy in Russia that they have no time to see to these minor eye-sores.

So in their idle moments, the German organizers, pull out their various plans in the hope that they will find a solution. Every time they give it up as hopeless. The day will come when the whole crumbling edifice of the New Order in Europe will collapse over the Balkan corner-stone. That day will be when the United Nations will have set firm foot on European soil. The day is not far off and when it comes it will be the signal for the whole Balkans to rise like one man and shake the remnants of the oppressor off their tired soil.

# Our Fighting Men Get More Money Now

◆

EVERY Indian Soldier, of whatever rank, is now much better off financially than he was two years ago.

So many increases of pay have been granted that sometimes soldiers and their families do not quite understand exactly how much they are entitled to draw.

Here is a simple table of the new rates of pay which will guide them :—

### BASIC PAY

The basic pay of all Indian soldiers and enrolled non-combatants was increased by two rupees a month from September 1, 1942. This brings the basic pay of a soldier up to Rs. 18 a month and that of enrolled non-combatant up to Rs. 17.

### PROFICIENCY PAY

This is granted at the discretion of the Commissioned Officer. The original rate of Rs. 2–8–0 a month could be granted after one year's service. Proficiency pay of one rupee a month can now be granted after six months service. This can be increased to Rs. 3–8–0 a month after one year's service.

### GOOD SERVICE PAY

This is again at the discretion of the Commissioned Officer and is granted to Non-Commissioned Officers who satisfy him as to their zeal and efficiency. Non-Commissioned Officers with two, four and six years service could be granted Rs. 2, 4, and 6 a month respectively. These rates now apply in half the time—in other words after one, two or three years service as Non-Commissioned Officers.

### XPATRIATION ALLOWANCE

This is granted to Indian troops serving overseas. This was increased by two rupees a month in December 1940 which brought the rates to the following which are still in force :

| | Per month. RS. |
|---|---|
| Subadar Major .. .. | 22 |
| Subadar .. .. .. | 22 |
| Jemadar .. .. .. | 14 |
| Havildar .. .. .. | 11 |
| Naik .. .. .. | 11 |
| L/Naik .. .. .. | 7 |
| Sepoy .. .. ... | 7 |

### BATTA

This allowance is sanctioned when Indian troops are serving in a field service area. This also was increased by two rupees a month in December 1940 bringing the rates up to the following figures :

| | Per month. RS. |
|---|---|
| Subadar Major .. .. | 18 |
| Subadar .. .. .. | 18 |
| Jemadar .. .. .. | 11 |
| Havildar .. .. .. | 8 |
| Naik .. .. .. | 8 |
| L/Naik .. .. .. | 5 |
| Sepoy .. .. .. | 5 |

### MESSING ALLOWANCE

This is granted for supplementing rations supplied in kind when the peace scale is in force. It was increased from ten annas to two rupees in December 1940. A further

increase of one rupee was sanctioned with effect from September 1, 1942 bringing the present rate up to three rupees a month.

**DEFERRED PAY**

A soldier earns this for every month of service but is not paid to him until he is discharged or is promoted V.C.O. It is a compulsory form of saving designed to ensure that the soldier has some capital to assist him to settle down in civil life when he leaves the army. This deferred pay was increased from one rupee to three rupees a month in April 1942 for soldiers. Non-combatants on this date were also granted deferred pay of one rupee a month. They did not previously receive any deferred pay.

**POST WAR RECONSTRUCTION FUND**

Two rupees a month for each serving soldier is to be paid annually into a fund designed for financing welfare schemes for the benefit of Indian soldiers and their families. This came into effect in April 1942.

# World's Largest Volunteer Army

## 350,000 Indian Troops Fighting Overseas

THE Indian Army has grown from 177,000 in 1938 to 1,500,000 to-day, which is the largest volunteer army in the world, declared Major Raj Kumar Shri Rajendrasinhji in a recent interview in New York. He said that if given the equipment the Indian Army could hold its own against any comparable force, especially the Japanese.

Major Rajendrasinhji, a member of the Second Bengal Lancers, was decorated for service in the earlier North African fighting.

He said that caste restrictions, which formerly limited Army enlistments, had been eliminated, resulting in a recruiting rate of 70,000 a month. A total of 350,000 Indians, he declared, were fighting overseas in defence of their country.

Major Rajendrasinhji said that India realized in 1939 that its frontiers would be extended to Aden, Suez, the Sudan and Malaya, and speedily dispatched troops to those points. He cited the veteran Fourth Indian Division, which is now participating in the attack on Rommel.

Indian war production is increasing, including guns, ammunition, boots and blankets, he said. He continued that India has an "excellent" plane assembly plant, where American planes are assembled.

# Indian Red Cross Help to Russia

THE despatch of surgical instruments worth over a lakh and a half of rupees to Russia; substantial allotments for the relief of homeless Polish evacuee children in India and for Chinese Red Cross work; the grant of a sum of Rs. 2,000 for Sind flood relief work; and a message of thanks for help offered to the American Red Cross were reported at the meeting of the Managing Body of the Indian Red Cross Society held in New Delhi this morning. Lieut.-Gen. Sir Gordon Jolly, Director-General of the Indian Medical Service, presided.

The surgical instruments sent to Russia were paid for out of funds totalling over Rs. 1,82,000 received by the Society from various sources for Red Cross aid to Russia.

On hearing of the recent floods in Washington the Society sent a message of sympathy to the American Red Cross and offered its help. The Chairman of the American Red Cross replied: "On behalf of flood victims American Red Cross deeply appreciates very thoughtful expression of sympathy and offer of assistance from Indian Red Cross. Floods have now subsided and situation is well in hand."

The Society has been able to help the various provinces to organize their blood transfusion services and has decided to apply to the International Red Cross Committee, Geneva, for a grant from the Empress Shoken Fund for the further development of this service.

**WON THE SECOND ROUND**

The United States had clearly won round two of the battles for the Solomons, but it must not be forgotten that there may be round three. In terms of the forces engaged and the destruction wrought, this was the greatest sur ace battle in this war, with the possible exception of Cape Matapan.

—COLONEL KNOX, *in an interview in Washington on Tuesday (November 17).*

# Diary of the War

## ENGLAND AND GERMANY

**15th Nov.**—The Royal Air Force were over Holland and Britanny.

President Benes, addressing the Czecho-slovak State Council in London, expressed the hope that the war was in its third and last period.

Church bells, stilled since Dunkirk, rang throughout Britain to commemorate the triumphant Battle of Egypt.

**17th Nov.**—An international air force to maintain world peace was forecast by Sir Stafford Cripps in a broadcast to America. He said: "After the war, we must devise a better method by which the freedom of nations can be preserved against brutal attack. The power of the air provides an opportunity which has never before existed for the control of world order."

The Royal Air Force attacked and damaged a number of locomotives in Northern France and Belgium. German bases at La Pallice and at Lorient were also attacked.

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## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ATLANTIC

**15th Nov.**—President Roosevelt announced that the Spanish Chief of State (General Franco) had thanked him for his assurances that United States forces in North Africa would not violate Spanish neutrality.

**17th Nov.**—Broadcasting on the seventh anniversary of the Commonwealth of Philippines, President Roosevelt disclosed that he and President Quezon of the Philippines had agreed to set up a joint Commission to work for the preservation of the stability and security of the Philippines.

**18th Nov.**—President Roosevelt called the Solomons naval action a major American victory.

*Some of the first prisoners to be brought in, after the Egyptian Victory.*

**18th Nov.**—The Royal Air Force attacked a number of objectives in the Low Countries.

General de Gaulle and the French National Committee announced their opposition to Vichy regime in North Africa.

**19th Nov.**—According to a Stockholm report, von List and other German Generals insisted on a reorganization of the German High Command and restoration of von Brauchitsch and von Leeb and other experts.

Col. Knox, Naval Secretary, said: "At the moment we have naval supremacy around Guadalcanar . . . We can lick them—I will not qualify that."

The Kaiser shipyards on the American West Coast claimed a new record when a naval craft was launched 2 days, 23 hours and 40 minutes after the laying of the keel.

President Roosevelt stated that no permanent political arrangement would be made with Admiral Darlan.

**19th Nov.**—Mrs. Roosevelt returned to America.

Two Rumanian orthodox priests and the editor of a group of Rumanian publications were arrested in Detroit for espionage.

President Roosevelt in a broadcast said that it would seem that the turning point of this war had at last been reached.

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## INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

**15th Nov.**—According to well-informed circles in Washington, the promised Allied offensive on other fronts, in addition to North Africa, may include a move into Burma.

Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar, in a message to Indians in the Far East (at present under the domination of the Japanese), said: "By what I have seen during these two months in Britain, I am convinced of the inevitability of the victory of the United Nations. Your trials will soon be over and you will be free to join the great federation of nations."

**19th Nov.**—The Royal Air Force attacked a group of Japanese-occupied buildings in Kalemyo in Burma.

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## ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

**14th Nov.**—Allies retook Tobruk. Sollum and Bardia were occupied. Axis ships tried to get away from Benghazi. Nine Italian Generals were captured.

Admiral Darlan broadcast a message to the Commanders of units of the French fleet at Toulon, asking them to "remove themselves from German grasp" and bring their ships to North African ports.

Twenty Axis planes were destroyed in the raid on Tunis by the Allies.

**15th Nov.**—The Royal Air Force attacked Genoa. The Allied troops reached Gazala. Petain censured Darlan. A naval engagement was fought off Algiers.

The French garrisons in Tunisia fought the Germans in Tunis and elsewhere.

President Roosevelt directed the Lease-Lend Administration to extend food, clothing and arms to the peoples of the North African territories occupied by American troops.

**16th Nov.**—Admiral Darlan appointed General Giraud Commander-in-Chief of North Africa.

German troops were sent to Italy to make preparations to meet an invasion.

Allied troops advanced up to Tmimi, about 75 miles beyond Tobruk. Enemy losses amounted to 75,000 men.

Allied air force raided Benghazi.

The Italian fleet in co-operation with Italian and German air forces, engaged British and American naval forces off North Africa. Thirteen U-boats were destroyed.

Hundreds of British and American para-troops captured the Bone aerodrome.

The Egyptian Prime Minister, Nahas Pasha, praising the Eighth Army's "striking triumph" in the Battle of Egypt, said in a speech at Cairo: "I am sure the day of triumph for Democracies is near."

**17th Nov.**—It was authoritatively stated that Rommel was in Munich, having discussions with Hitler, Himmler and others. Major-General Ramcke was in command of the retreating Afrika Korps in Libya.

## IMPERIAL WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

The Imperial War Graves Commission, established during the last war, was originally concerned with the commemoration of the names of members of His Majesty's Forces, who gave their lives for the Empire and of whom the greater number fell in foreign lands. For more than twenty years it has helped to keep their names a living memory. The Commission is responsible for the same sacred duty to the dead of the fighting services to-day; and now that War takes its toll of the non-combatant population as well, it has undertaken a new duty—that of collecting the names of all civilians who are victims of enemy attacks, so that the memory of their names also may be preserved for all time.

The help of every citizen in this Province is needed if civilian names are to be recorded side by side with those of the Fighting Services without exception or mistake. The Government earnestly desire that any one who is aware of the death of any British Indian or Indian national through enemy action outside the territories under the control of the Government of India, should get into touch with the revenue authorities of the district and supply information to be sent to the Imperial War Graves Commission, through the Government of India, Civil Defence Department.

The form showing the particulars on which information is required in respect of those who have lost their lives will be supplied on application to the Collector of the district.

The Royal Air Force raided Genoa again.

The natives of Corsica violently resisted Italian occupational forces. A state of siege was declared in Ajaccio.

British troops occupied Mertuba. Enemy forces were bombed beyond Benghazi. Axis forces continued to retreat in Cyrenaica.

German forces in Tunisia were ordered by Hitler to hold on at any cost.

General Giraud in a broadcast appeal to the French forces said: " We have but one enemy, one who has occupied our country and keeps one million of our comrades prisoner. We shall first have to drive him out of Africa, then out of France."

**18th Nov.**—Admiral Darlan in the name of Marshal Petain instituted a Legislative Council to assist him as High Commissioner for French North Africa.

Allied troops occupied Derna and Mekili.

Several hundreds of Indian troops were released from Axis imprisonment in the course of the Allied advance in Libya.

The Germans retreated in the first reconnaissance clash with American troops in Tunisia. The French garrisons at Bizerta fought against the Germans.

**19th Nov.**—American parachutists were warmly received by French soldiers at a Tunisian aerodrome. Rommel was reported to be in Tunisia.

Allied forces were within 70 miles of Benghazi. Only 15 out of 500 Axis tanks escaped destruction.

The Sultan of Morocco told General Patton, United States Commander-in-Chief in Morocco: " We are glad to receive the Americans as friends and express the best wishes for the prosperity of our countries from now on."

**20th Nov.**—British advance units contacted Rommel's army south of Benghazi. Ten German transport planes were destroyed by at all key points in the Stalingrad and the Royal Air Force.

British bombers attacked Turin.

The Royal Air Force from Malta attacked Tunis aerodrome.

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## RUSSIA AND FINLAND

**14th Nov.**—The Germans resumed their offensive on Stalingrad on a large scale. A wedge was driven into Soviet positions. The Russians advanced near Novorossisk.

**15th Nov.**—German offensives on Stalingrad and the Caucasus failed. Winter warfare began in Karelia. Several Axis positions were captured in Nalchik.

**16th Nov.**—Nazis renewed their attacks on Stalingrad. The Soviet 'scorched earth' policy at Maikop oil fields was thorough.

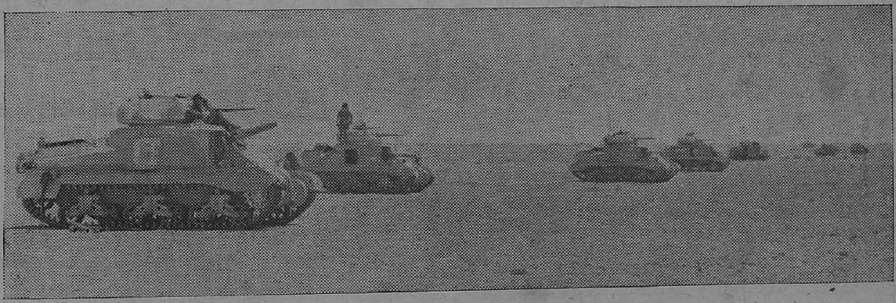
**17th Nov.**—Russian troops, in a 21-day battle, killed about 15,000 Germans and Rumanians in the north-east Black Sea Port of Iuapse. Nazi attacks on Stalingrad failed. The enemy attacked with infantry, no tanks being available.

**18th Nov.**—The Red Army retook villages near Nalchik. Points near Stalingrad were also recaptured.

M. Fagerholm, Finland's Minister for Social Affairs, in speech at Stockholm, said: " Finland is not fighting for any European 'New Order.' The Finnish people are democratic and no other regime suits us. We are compelled to fight as long as is necessary."

**19th Nov.**—Seven big Russian armies were massed along the front from Leningrad to Stalingrad to open a Russian winter push. The Nazis retreated near Nalchik.

**20th Nov.**—Soviet troops gained successes at all key points in the Stalingrad and Caucasus fronts.



*WESTERN DESERT ACTIVITIES: Tanks of an Armoured Brigade wait to go into action.*

## NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

**15th Nov.**—Air raid alerts were sounded in Geneva and Lausanne.

**19th Nov.**—A partial mobilization of the Spanish army, naval and air forces was ordered.

**20th Nov.**—General Franco refused to grant Germany naval and air bases.

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## SHIPPING

**17th Nov.**—The British submarine **Talisman** was lost.

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## VICHY AND OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

**15th Nov.**—A Vichy official communiqué stated: "We are able to declare that the political and administrative services will continue to fulfil their functions in complete independence and under the sole authority of the French Government."

**16th Nov.**—Strong forces of police surrounded Marshal Petain's official residence at Vichy.

A large number of French troops arrived to occupy the Toulon fortified region.

**17th Nov.**—According to well-informed circles, General Weygand was arrested by Vichy on the orders of the Germans.

An extensive revolt broke out in the Axis-occupied Western Croatia district of Yugoslavia. Between 10,000 and 15,000 guerillas captured two towns.

Marshal Petain issued a statement repudiating that Admiral Darlan represented himself or his views.

**19th Nov.**—Many arrests were made following a new outbreak of fire which caused serious damage to Rumanian oil fields.

Mr. Anthony Eden, Foreign Secretary, said in the Commons that Albania's future would not be influenced at the final peace settlement by any changes brought about through Italian aggression.

Six Greek airmen were executed by the German military authorities.

M. Laval was appointed presumptive successor to Marshal Petain. M. Laval was granted full powers.

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## THE FAR EAST

**15th Nov.**—American and Japanese units suffered losses in the naval action in the Solomons. A Dutch submarine torpedoed a Japanese supply ship of 5,000 tons.

**16th Nov.**—Allied forces captured the Kumusi river crossing, the Australian sappers having rebuilt the Wairpoi bridge. Allied troops advanced in New Guinea. A Japanese transport was sunk.

**17th Nov.**—Australian and American troops converged on Buna and joined forces. Two enemy vessels were hit in Rabaul harbour.

The Japanese were pushed back North of Canton.

Twenty-three Japanese warships were sunk and the Americans lost eight in the four-day naval batt'e off Solomons.

**18th Nov.**—About 24,000 Japanese died when eight transports headed for Guadalcanar were sunk.

Gen. MacArthur took direct command of the Allied campaign to drive the Japanese from their invasion base at Buna in New Guinea.

**19th Nov.**—Australian and American troops continued to advance on Buna in New Guinea.

The full total of Japanese losses in Guadalcanal was 23 ships sunk and 7 damaged.

**20th Nov.**—A Japanese naval force was off New Guinea.

Following Britain and United States, Belgium also decided to relinquish extra-territorial rights in China.

A Japanese attack on Kunming was imminent.

## Morocco:
## American Friends

"We know the feeling which animates the United States of America; we are glad to receive the Americans as friends and express the best wishes for the prosperity of our countries from now on, united in reciprocal understanding and in sincere friendship."

—The SULTAN OF MOROCCO,
*to Major-General Patton, on Wednesday (November 18).*

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